

State of New Hampshire

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For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 25, 2006

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STATE ADOPTS EMERGENCY RULES ON BOAT SPEEDS

CONCORD, N.H. – The N.H. Department of Safety has adopted emergency rules restricting maximum operating speeds on four of the state's lakes due to high water levels resulting from the recent flood.

Under the emergency rule, boaters may operate at no more than headway speed within 600 feet from the shoreline of:

- Silver Lake in the towns of Tilton and Belmont
- Lake Winnepesaukee
- Lake Winnisquam
- Lake Opechee

The headway speed restriction will remain in place until further notice.

The rule is necessary because of the recent rainfalls. As a result, many fixed obstacles that were well above the water, such as docks, wharfs, stumps and rocks that would normally be visible are now wholly or partially obscured resulting in a navigational hazard to boaters.

The high waters and recent rainfalls have also caused an unusual amount of submerged debris in the water, again creating a navigational hazard to boaters.

The high water has in many instances created environmental damage including erosion of the shore line, degradation of water quality and the introduction of pollutants into the public waters. Travel greater than headway speed within 600 feet of shoreline can create additional environmental disturbances that will compromise public health and safety.

The headway speed restrictions will be enforced by the N.H. Marine Patrol. This emergency rule takes effect ahead of the Memorial Day weekend, the traditional start to the boating season.